Express Mail No.: EV447225926US

International Application No.: PCT/SG01/00261 International Filing Date: 31 December 2001

Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending. Claims 6-8, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 21-22 are being amended. The Abstract is being amended to place it on a page by itself and to correct a typographical error.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims in the application are allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

Robert Iannucci

Registration No. 33,514

RXI:alb

Enclosure:

Postcard

701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 6300 Seattle, Washington 98104-7092

Phone: (206) 622-4900 Fax: (206) 682-6031

851663.473USPC / 494358_1.DOC